

Message Text

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51

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-11 IGA-02 SCI-06 PC-10 USIA-15

IO-14 INR-11 DODE-00 AGR-20 SWF-02 INT-08 COME-00

FDRE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /171 W
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P R 251633Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2771

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 1381

AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: MAURITANIA AIRLIFT

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 1375, BAMAKO 3240

SUMMARY: JTF COMMANDER HARP VISITED NOUAKCHOTT SEPTEMBER 25 AFTER OFF-LOADING 20 MT GRAIN AND CEMENT AT NEMA. HARP, CHARGE AND AADO MET WITH CIVAIR AND ASECNA OFFICIALS DISCUSS RUNWAY REPAIRS AND WITH MINHEALTH ARRANGE ALTERNATIVE GRAIN DELIVERIES TO AIOUN. REPAIRS TO NEMA RUNWAY UNDERWAY USING CEMENT AND TOOLS DELIVERED BY KING GRAIN AIRCRAFT. AIRLIFT WILL MOVE 80 TONS GRAIN TO AIOUN SEPTEMBER 26 ENABLE REPAIRS BE COMPLETED AT NEMA. JTF COMMANDER WILL MAKE DECISION ON CONTINUED USE NEMA STRIP FOLLOWING HIS INSPECTION REPAIRS SEPT. 26-27.

1. JTF COMMANDER COLONEL HARP TRAVELED TO NOUAKCHOTT SEPTEMBER 25 WHERE HE MET WITH CIVAIR AND ASECNA DIRECTORS DISCUSS TEMPORARY REPAIRS TO NEMA RUNWAY FACILITATE CONTINUATION AIRLIFT. ASECNA HAS SUPPLIED TOOLS AND WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS ENABLE TECHNICIAN ALREADY STATIONED NEMA PROCEED WITH REPAIRS IMMEDIATELY USING 40 SACKS CEMENT DELIVERED BY KING GRAIN AIRCRAFT THIS AM. ASECNA AND EMBASSY UNABLE, HOWEVER, LOCATE ASPHALT
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WHICH IMPORTANT FOR RESURFACING RUNWAY AFTER PATCHING.

COLONEL HARP SAID HE CONFIDENT NEMA AIRLIFT COULD
CONTINUE AFTER REPAIRS EFFECTED USING ONLY CEMENT AND GRAVEL.

2. HARP, CHARGE AND AADO ALSO MET WITH MINHEALTH DISCUSS
ALTERNATIVE LIFT TO SECOND REGION CAPITAL AIOUN. MINISTER
HAS INFORMED AIOUN GOVERNOR EXPECT FOUR FLIGHTS TOMORROW
CARRYING TOTAL 80 TONS GRAIN. GOVERNOR RESPONSIBLE FOR ARRANGING
OFF-LOADING, STORAGE, GROUND TRANSPORT USING GIRM FUNDS AT
HIS DISPOSAL. MAJOR PROBLEM, OF COURSE, WILL BE TRUCKS, MINHEALTH
DISPATCHED DOZEN TEN-TON LORRIES TO AIOUN LAST WEEK, BUT WITH
OVERLAND TRACKS STILL MUDDY FROM HEAVY AUGUST RAINS, IS NOT SURE
IF THEY HAVE YET ARRIVED. COLONEL HARP AND PCV
AIRLIFT LIAISON WILL CONSULT WITH AIOUN GOVERNOR
SEPTEMBER 26 ARRANGE FOR CONTINUED AIRLIFT TO AIOUN SHOULD
NEMA AIRSTRIP CONTINUE UNSAFE FOR HEAVILY-LOADED
C-130S.

3. KING GRAIN C-130 DEPARTED NOUAKCHOTT 1330 HOURS
CARRYING 15 MT GRAIN, TOOLS AND OTHER ITEMS NEEDED REPAIR
NEMA RUNWAY. ASECNA TECHNICIAN AT NEMA HAS INSTRUCTIONS
COMPLETE NECESSARY TEMPORARY REPAIRS ENABLE AIRLIFT OPERATIONS
RECOMMENCE SEPTEMBER 27. COLONEL HARP WILL INSPECT REPAIRS
SEPTEMBER 26-27 AND MAKE DECISION THEN ON CONTINUATION OF
AIRLIFT TO NEMA OR SWITCH TO PLANNED ALTERNATE AIOUN. FYI: AS
OF TODAY, AIRLIFT HAS DELIVERED TOTAL NEARLY 2000 MT (TWO-THIRDS
PLANNED TOTAL) TO NEMA. SHURTLEFF

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